

MENU

SEARCH

INDEX

BACK

2/2



JAPANESE PATENT OFFICE

## PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN

(11)Publication number: 09322163

(43)Date of publication of application: 12.12.1997

(51)Int.Cl.

H04N 7/24  
H03M 7/36  
H04N 5/00  
H04N 5/272  
H04N 5/92  
H04N 7/32

(21)Application number: 09067072

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SONY CORP

(22)Date of filing: 19.03.1997

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(30)Priority

Priority number: 08 66640 Priority date: 22.03.1996 Priority country: JP

(54) METHOD, DEVICE FOR ENCODING, TRANSMITTING AND DECODING IMAGE SIGNAL AND RECORDING MEDIUM

(57)Abstract:

**PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED:** To perform effective image edition to a composite image by performing scalable encoding to 1st and 2nd image signals and a key signal for synthesizing these image signals.

**SOLUTION:** A background image, foreground image and key signal are respectively separately encoded and respective bit streams are multiplexed so that a bit stream corresponding to these three signals can be constituted. An image signal encoding part 61 encodes the high-order and low-order layer image signals of the foreground image. Based on a motion vector and a predictive mode from the image signal encoding part 61, a key signal encoding part 62 encodes high-order and low-order layer key signals through scalable encoding. The bit stream of encoded high-order and low-order layer image signals and the bit stream of encoded high-order and low-order layer key signals are multiplexed by a multiplexing part 63 and outputted through a transmission buffer 64 as one encoded bit stream.

